

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. Apparatus for transporting a stream of parti-
2 culate material, comprising;
3 a channel having elongated walls defining a stream-
4 receiving and guiding path, at least one of said walls
5 being movable lengthwise and having a stream-contacting
6 surface provided with material-receiving recesses; and
7 means for moving said at least one wall.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the
2 particulate material is a smokable material.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one wall forms part of an endless flexible element.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said endless
2 flexible element includes a toothed belt.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said toothed
2 belt has alternating teeth and tooth spaces, said tooth
3 spaces constituting said recesses.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said means
2 for moving includes a pulley rotatable about a predeter-
3 mined axis and including a cage having bars parallel with
4 said axis and mating with the teeth of said belt.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising
2 a second pulley having a toothless peripheral surface,
3 said belt being trained over said second pulley.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means
2 for moving includes a rotary pulley and a digital servo
3 drive for said pulley.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least
2 two of said walls are movable lengthwise.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein only one
2 of said at least two walls has a recessed stream-contacting
3 surface.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of
2 said at least two walls has a recessed stream-contacting
3 surface.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said
2 channel further comprises a film of current-conducting
3 material coating said stream-contacting surface.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said path
2 has a width which decreases in the direction of
3 lengthwise movement of said at least one wall.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at
2 least one wall consists at least in part of a material
3 selected from the group consisting of polyurethane
4 elastomers, polyethylene, polypropylene and polyester
5 elastomers.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said stream
2 is convertible into rod-like fillers of smokers' products
3 each having a predetermined length and said material- re-
4 ceiving recesses are spaced apart from each other
5 lengthwise of said at least one wall by a whole multiple
6 of said predetermined length.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said walls
2 include a first wall bounding said path from above, a
3 second wall adjacent one side of said path and a third
4 wall adjacent another side of said path, said surface
5 being provided on at least one of said second and third
6 walls.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said first
2 wall is foraminous.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising
2 a housing for said channel, said housing having portions
3 supporting said second and third walls from below.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said re-
2 cesses are equidistant from each other as seen in the
3 direction of lengthwise movement of said at least one
4 wall.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising
2 means for showering particulate material into a predeter-
3 mined portion of said path.